



Re: EPA statement on initial water sampling results in Dimock
Roy Seneca to: Rubinkam, Michael
Cc: Terri-A White

03/15/2012 06:41 PM

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
To: "Rubinkam, Michael" <mrubinkam@ap.org>
Cc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Michael --

In accordance with the Privacy Act, the Agency does not share an individual homeowner's sample results with the public. In general, we will offer a summary about our findings. As noted in our earlier statement, **we did not find levels of contamination that could present a health concern in the 11 wells we tested.** EPA officials can explain results more thoroughly in our meeting with individual homeowners.

Roy Seneca
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Roy,
Scott Ely said his EPA report shows that sodium and arsenic levels were ABOVE federal drinking water standards. So how can EPA assert the water is safe to drink?
Thanks
Mike

Michael Rubinkam | Northeastern Pa. correspondent

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From: "Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov" <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2012 15:55:26 -0400
To: Associated Press <mrubinkam@ap.org>
Cc: Terri-A White <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov>
Subject: EPA statement on initial water sampling results in Dimock

Michael -- You had asked us to keep you updated when EPA had information on drinking water sampling in Dimock. Here is the EPA statement we are issuing today about the first round of sampling at 11 homes.

On Jan. 19, as a result of requests from residents and a review of the data we had in hand, EPA announced it would perform water sampling at approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pa. to further assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances that cause health concerns.

The first round of sampling results is now available for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. Sampling results from these 11 homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern. Samples from six of the 11 homes did show concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but concentrations were all within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified the presence of arsenic at two homes.

Out of the 11 homes tested, there are currently three homes receiving an alternate water supply provided by EPA. EPA will continue to provide water to these homes while we perform additional sampling to ensure that the drinking water quality at these homes remains consistent and acceptable for use over time. EPA is also taking a second round of samples from the two homes where arsenic was detected, and although the levels meet water standards, we will resample to better characterize the water quality of these wells. After receiving results from the second round of sampling, EPA will re-evaluate the need to continue providing an alternate water source.

EPA has offered to meet with all the residents to go over their data and answer any health-related concerns. As further quality assured data becomes available for the remaining homes, we will share with the homeowners in an expedited manner. Our actions will continue to be based on the science and the law as we work to help get a clear picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock.

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